

Report on Communication Activities with Nursing Education Programs

SUMMARY:

This report describes participation of the education consultants in activities to promote communication and share information with Texas nursing program representatives and other stakeholders.

New Dean, Director, and Coordinator Orientation Workshop

Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education and Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education require that a newly appointed dean, director, interim dean, interim director, or coordinator of a nursing education program attend the next scheduled orientation provided by Board staff. The Orientations are usually conducted in the fall and spring.

On March 2, 2012, the Deans, Directors, and Coordinators Orientation was held in Room 102, Tower III of the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. Prior to attending the one-day meeting, participants were required to complete an orientation module that is sent to all newly-appointed deans, directors, and coordinators. The module offers core content regarding Rule 214 and Rule 215, whereas the face-to-face orientation provides learners with the opportunity to apply knowledge through interactive, participatory activities.

The Austin workshop was attended by thirty-seven (37) individuals. The attendees included deans, directors, and coordinators of professional and vocational nursing education programs, as well as administrators and faculty members from several of the programs. Following a welcome provided by Dr. Mary Beth Thomas, BON Director of Nursing Education and Nursing Practice, the education consultants launched the presentation with a systemic overview of the Texas BON. Other agenda items included discussion of Rule 214 Vocational Nursing Education, Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education, the Education Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions, and Position Statement 15.26 Simulation in Prelicensure Nursing Education.

In addition, Mark Majek, Director of Operations, outlined the initial licensing application process. Anthony Diggs, Director of Enforcement, along with Earl Stearns, Supervising Investigator for the Eligibility Team, reviewed the petition for declaratory order process and provided updated information related to enforcement issues.

Evaluations of the orientation were overwhelmingly positive. The majority of attendees indicated that all program objectives were completely met. Moreover, the teaching methods/strategies, as well as the relevance of the overall objectives, were determined to be effective. Several participants remarked that, as a result of attending the orientation, they feel more confident in their new role, and comfortable in contacting their assigned education consultant for guidance in the future. Education consultants are currently planning to conduct another orientation workshop in early fall 2012.

Informal Information Session

Subsequent to the increased number of inquiries regarding the process of new program proposal development, Texas BON education consultants are conducting workshops for interested stakeholders. The purpose of the Informal Information Sessions is to present and discuss the essential elements of the proposal development process. Additionally, participants are provided an opportunity to visit with the education consultants, and network with other individuals who are in the process of proposal design.

An Informal Information Session was held on February 22, 2012, in Room 225, Tower II of the William P. Hobby Building in Austin, Texas. Twenty-six (26) individuals representing thirteen (13) potential new vocational, associate degree, and baccalaureate degree nursing programs attended the three (3)-hour workshop. Nursing consultants for education, Virginia Ayars and Robin Caldwell, provided detailed information regarding the proposal process as well as BON Education Rules 214 and 215, and Mark Majek, BON Director of Operations, discussed the initial licensure process, criminal background checks, and eligibility issues.

A question and answer session was conducted at the conclusion of the workshop. The feedback was very positive, and the education consultants plan to host another Informal Information Session in early fall 2012.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information report. No action is recommended.